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MISCELLANY.

The article "Notice of Stockholders of Corporation" in Miscellany, p. 726, of the January "Register" was—with the exception of the paragraph "Punctuation of Statutes"—written by Wm. L. Foushee, Esq., of the Richmond Bar. The article was unsigned and Mr. Foushee's letter enclosing the same led us to the conclusion that no signature to the article was contemplated. We gladly credit it to the author and hope to hear from him again.

The Insanitary Oath.—A letter from Colonel Mapleson in the *Times*, stating that an eminent *prima donna* has contracted an illness through "kissing the Book" in the witness-box, has once again drawn attention to the danger of the insanitary oath. It is a danger which, of course, no witness is obliged to run. The Oaths Act, 1888, provides that "if any person to whom an oath is administered desires to swear with uplifted hand, in the form and manner in which the oath is usually administered in Scotland, he shall be permitted to do so, and the oath shall be administered to him in such form without further question." Exceedingly little use is made of the provision of the Act, few witnesses, apparently, being self-possessed enough to express the necessary desire. Perhaps the practice of "kissing the Book" would fall into desuetude if the officials who administer the oath were instructed to remind every witness of his right to swear with uplifted hand, but probably the better course would be for Parliament to recognise that the practice ought not to be continued. It could either make the use of the Scottish form of oath general, or restore the ancient practice of the laying of the hand on the Bible. The touching of the sacred Book with the hand seems to have been the essential part of the ceremony long after the practice of kissing it was introduced. As Lord Hale said, "The regular oath as it is allowed by the laws of England is *tactis sacrosanctis Dei evangeliiis*." Lifting up the right hand is even a more ancient custom, and it is certainly not less impressive; but the proposal to restore the practice of the laying of the hand on the Bible has the great merit, from the Parliamentary point of view, of following the line of least resistance, since its adoption would not encounter the opposition of those unwilling to see the Bible excluded from the ceremony.—London Law Journal.

Date of Bar Examination.—Mr. M. B. Watts, secretary, informs us that the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia has decided to hold the Bar Examination at Wytheville, in June next, on Friday, June 18th, instead of Wednesday as provided in the new rules; this departure from the rules, however, to apply only to this examination.